

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gene L. Tyler (Reg. No. 35,395) on July 30, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a resin coated article, the process comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition comprising a brominated epoxy resin, a curing agent, and a cure accelerator compound;

wherein the cure accelerator compound is an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, an alkali metal containing alkoxide, an alkali metal containing phenoxide, an alkali metal containing carboxylate, an alkali metal containing halide salt, an alkali metal containing borate, an alkali metal containing bicarbonate, an alkali metal containing carbonate, an alkali metal containing chlorate, an alkali metal containing nitrate, an alkali metal containing phosphate, an alkali metal containing sulfate, an alkali metal containing sulfide, an alkali metal containing sulfite, an alkali metal containing polysulfide, an alkali metal containing thiocyanate, an alkali metal containing silicate, an alkali metal containing aluminate, an alkali metal containing phosphonate, an alkali

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metal containing sulfonate, an alkali metal containing cyanate, an alkali metal containing thiolate, an alkali metal containing thiophenoxide, an alkali metal containing thiocarboxylate, an alkali metal containing thiophosphate, an alkali metal containing imide salt, an alkali metal ion complexed with coordinating compounds, and combinations thereof;

wherein the curing agent consists essentially of dicyandiamide or a melamine;

wherein the brominated epoxy resin is derived from the reaction of an epihalohydrin and a phenol or a phenol type compound; and

wherein the contacting occurs by a contacting method.

9. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, an alkali metal containing alkoxide, an alkali metal containing phenoxide, an alkali metal containing carboxylate, an alkali metal containing halide salt, an alkali metal containing carbonate and combinations thereof.

20. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a resin coated article, the process comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition comprising a brominated epoxy resin, a curing agent, and a cure accelerator compound;

wherein the cure accelerator compound is an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, an alkali metal containing alkoxide, an alkali metal containing phenoxide, an alkali metal containing carboxylate, an alkali metal containing halide salt, an alkali metal containing borate, an alkali

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metal containing bicarbonate, an alkali metal containing carbonate, an alkali metal containing chlorate, an alkali metal containing nitrate, an alkali metal containing phosphate, an alkali metal containing sulfate, an alkali metal containing sulfide, an alkali metal containing sulfite, an alkali metal containing polysulfide, an alkali metal containing thiocyanate, an alkali metal containing silicate, an alkali metal containing aluminate, an alkali metal containing phosphonate, an alkali metal containing sulfonate, an alkali metal containing cyanate, an alkali metal containing thiolate, an alkali metal containing thiophenoxide, an alkali metal containing thiocarboxylate, an alkali metal containing thiophosphate, an alkali metal containing imide salt, an alkali metal ion complexed with coordinating compounds, and combinations thereof;

wherein the curing agent consists essentially of dicyandiamide;

wherein the brominated epoxy resin is derived from the reaction of an epihalohydrin and a phenol or a phenol type compound; and

wherein the phenol or phenol type compound is selected from the group consisting of dihydroxy phenols, biphenols, bisphenols, halogenated biphenols, halogenated bisphenols, hydrogenated bisphenols, alkylated biphenols, alkylated bisphenols, trisphenols, phenol-aldehyde resins, novolac resins, halogenated phenol-aldehyde novolac resins, substituted phenol-aldehyde novolac resins, phenol-hydrocarbon resins, substituted phenol-hydrocarbon resins, phenol hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, alkylated phenol-hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, hydrocarbon-phenol resins, hydrocarbon-halogenated phenol resins, hydrocarbon-alkylated phenol resins, and combinations thereof.

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21. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a resin coated article, the process comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition consisting essentially of a brominated epoxy resin, a curing agent, and a cure accelerator compound;

wherein the cure accelerator compound is an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal containing hydroxide, an alkali metal containing alkoxide, an alkali metal containing phenoxide, an alkali metal containing carboxylate, an alkali metal containing halide salt, an alkali metal containing borate, an alkali metal containing bicarbonate, an alkali metal containing carbonate, an alkali metal containing chlorate, an alkali metal containing nitrate, an alkali metal containing phosphate, an alkali metal containing sulfate, an alkali metal containing sulfide, an alkali metal containing sulfite, an alkali metal containing polysulfide, an alkali metal containing thiocyanate, an alkali metal containing silicate, an alkali metal containing aluminate, an alkali metal containing phosphonate, an alkali metal containing sulfonate, an alkali metal containing cyanate, an alkali metal containing thiolate, an alkali metal containing thiophenoxide, an alkali metal containing thiocarboxylate, an alkali metal containing thiophosphate, an alkali metal containing imide salt, an alkali metal ion complexed with coordinating compounds, and combinations thereof;

wherein the curing agent is dicyandiamide or a melamine;

wherein the brominated epoxy resin is derived from the reaction of an epihalohydrin and a phenol or a phenol type compound; and

wherein the phenol or phenol type compound is selected from the group consisting of bisphenols, halogenated bisphenols, hydrogenated bisphenols, novolac resins, and combinations thereof.

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22. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a resin coated article, the process comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition consisting essentially of a brominated epoxy resin, a curing agent, and a cure accelerator compound;

wherein the cure accelerator compound is an alkali metal hydroxide;

wherein the curing agent is dicyandiamide;

wherein the brominated epoxy resin is derived from the reaction of an epihalohydrin and a phenol or a phenol type compound; and

wherein the phenol or phenol type compound is selected from the group consisting of resorcinol, catechol, hydroquinone, biphenol, bisphenol A, bisphenol AP, bisphenol F, bisphenol K, tetrabromobisphenol A, phenol-formaldehyde novolac resins, alkyl substituted phenol-formaldehyde resins, phenol-hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, cresol-hydroxybenzaldehyde resins, dicyclopentadiene-phenol resins, dicyclopentadiene-substituted phenol resins, tetramethylbiphenol, tetramethyl-tetrabromobiphenol, tetramethyltribromobiphenol, tetrachlorobisphenol A and combinations thereof.

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DETAILED ACTION

Pending Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-22 are pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-5 of the response, filed April 24, 2009, with respect to obviousness rejections over Thoseby et al. (US Pat. No. 5,304,662) and Bagga (US Pat. No. 4,284,574) have been fully considered and are persuasive. In order to arrive at the instant invention, undue picking and choosing would have been required. The skilled artisan would have to pick the brominated epoxy resin *and* the instantly claimed curing *in combination with* the instantly claimed cure accelerator. The prior art of record fails to provide adequate guidance or motivation to render the instantly claimed invention(s) obvious. Accordingly, the following rejections have been withdrawn:

- The rejection of claims 1-4, 9-14, and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thoseby et al. (US Pat. No. 5,304,662).
- The rejection of claims 1-4, 9-14, and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bagga (US Pat. No. 4,284,574).
- The rejection of claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thoseby et al. (US Pat. No. 5,304,662) or Bagga (US Pat. No. 4,284,574) in view of Alvino et al. (US Pat. No. 4,327,143).

Comment Regarding the Examiner's Amendment

2. In claim 1, an alkali metal containing phenoxide was added to the list of cure accelerator compounds. This provided antecedent basis for the phenoxide material set forth in claim 9. In addition, the phrase an alkali metal containing was inserted for each of the accelerators to improve clarity.

3. In claim 9, the phrase an alkali metal containing was inserted for each of the accelerators to improve clarity.

4. Claim 20 features the same changes set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, claim 20 was slightly re-formatted to reflect the format of claim 1.

5. Claim 21 features the same changes set forth in claim 1. Claim 21 was slightly re-formatted to reflect the format of claim 1 (and 20). Furthermore, *polyalkylene glycols* were removed from the list of *phenol or phenol type compounds* because polyalkylene glycols do not fall within the scope of phenol or phenol type compounds.

6. Claim 22 was slightly re-formatted to reflect the format of claim 1 (and 20 & 21).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-22 are allowed.

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Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Feely whose telephone number is (571)272-1086. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Feely/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

July 30, 2009